

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 05252 010151Z

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, VS

SUBJ: INDONESIA AND VIETNAM

REFS: A) STATE 082589; B) JAKARTA 5105

1. SUMMARY: IN ORDER FURTHER TO EVALUATE INDONESIA'S INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ICCS I HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENCY, AND COMMANDER INDONESIAN BATTALION IN ICCS. MY CONCLUSION IS THAT INDONESIA LIKELY REMAIN IN ICCS BUT POSITION OF IRAN AND DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM WILL DETERMINE COURSE IN LONG RUN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THREE CONVERSATIONS APRIL 29 I REVIEWED VIETNAM AND ICCS SITUATION WITH GENERAL DHARSONO, CHIEF INDONESIAN ICCS CONTINGENT AND AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA; FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND GENERAL SUDHARMONO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENCY. TO FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND GENERAL SUDHARMONO I CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 082589.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 05252 010151Z

3. IN GENERAL DHARSONO'S VIEW ICCS CURRENTLY STALEMATED BY TACTICS OF POLES AN HUNGARIANS BUT SITUATION NOT YET HOPELESS. ICCS PERFORMS IMPORTANT FUNCTION BY PRESENCE IN OUTLYING AREAS. HE DISCOUNTS CLAIMS BY POLES AND HUNGARIANS THAT ICCS PERSONNEL ARE IN DANGER AT CERTAIN POSTS AND SAYS RECENT SURVEY CLEARLY SUGGESTED THIS NOT SO. MORALE INDONESIAN MEMBERS HIGH. EVEN WITH REDUCED NUMBER OF 200 HE IS ABLE MAN ALL OPEN POSTS BY REDUCING STAFF IN SAIGON.

4. DHARSONO'S CURRENT EFFORT IS TO ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH ON CHRONOLOGICAL QUESTION (SAIGON 5153). HE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC BUT FEELS THAT CAI LAY INCIDENT SHOWS THAT COMMUNISTS WILL REACT TO PUBLIC OPINION IF OPINION STRONGLY ENOUGH EXPRESSED. IN THIS CASE PRG URGED ACCEPTANCE OF CAI LAY INVESTIGATION BUT BACKED OFF AFTER TONG LE CHAN INCIDENT. HE FEELS STRONGER IRANIAN POSITION WILL BE HELPFUL IN CONFRONTING DILATORY COMMUNIST TACTICS.

5. IN HIS VIEW BUDGETARY PROBLEM IS MANAGEABLE BUT U.S. MAY NEED TO PROVIDE MORE THAN NORMAL SHARE. HE SAID ICCS BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR WOULD PROBABLY BE \$24 MILLION (CONFIRMED BY SAIGON'S 5544). IT IS CLEAR HANOI AND PRG WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO BUDGET BOTH FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND BECAUSE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HANOI BAD.

6. REAL ICCS PROBLEM RELATES TO POLITICAL STALEMATE. ELECTIONS WHICH ARE KEY TO BREAKING STALEMATE NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR SINCE PRG FEARS ELECTIONS. CURRENT PRG OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS SEPARATE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH. WHEN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HOPE INDOESIA WOULD NOT FURTHER THIS CAUSE, DHARSONO SAID HE ASSUMED REFERENCE WAS TO INDONESIAN VOTE IN LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. THIS WAS "SMALL THING" AND NOT LIKELY BE REPEATED.) HE COMMENTED PRG TOTALLY UNDER HANOI TO EXTENT THAT THEIR DIPLOMATIC NOTES ARE IN IDENTICAL WORDING.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, COMMENTING ON THE ICCS, SAID THAT SITUATION IS "NOT SO BAD." HE NOTED IRAN SUPPLIED CHAIRMAN LAST MONTH, IMPLYING THEIR PERFORMANCE HAD EN-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKARTA 05252 010151Z

COURAGED GOI. MALIK HIMSELF IS ENCOURAGING DHARSONO TO CONTINUE WITH HIS EFFORTS TO GET ICCS TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS. IN ADDITION, IT IS MALIK'S PLAN TO CONSULT WITH IRANIANS IN HOPES OF ASSURING THEY WILL PLAY POSITIVE ROLE, AFTER WHICH POLES AND HUNGARIANS WOULD BE APPROACHED (NOT CLEAR ZWETHER MALIK MEANT BY INDONESIA ALONE OR IN CONCERT WITH IRANIANS) TO TRY TO GET ICCS MOVING AGAIN.

8. GENERAL SUDHARMONO'S COMMENTS WERE BRIEF. HE SAID HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT WHICH HE TOOK TO MEAN THAT WE WERE NOT SERIOUSLY ALARMED BY THE CURRENT SUSPENSION OF TALKS BETWEEN SAIGON AND THE VIET CONG. I CONFIRMED THIS.

9. COMMENT: THESE DISCUSSIONS DO NOT CHANGE BASIC FEELING REGISTERED IN PARA 9 OF JAKARTA 5105. INDONESIA TROUBLED BY LACK OF ABILITY TO FUNCTION BUT NOT CONSIDERING ANY EARLY PULLOUT.
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